



Integrating Critical Thinking

About This Course

Course Description

Critical thinking is one of the ten core competencies in The IIA's *Global Internal Audit Competency Framework*. Critical thinking is one of the key required personal skills identified, and most organizations consider it an indispensable skill for internal auditors. Critical thinking leads to improved decision-making and can result in better organizational performance. In this course, we will examine the various facets and components of this important core competency.

Effective critical thinking involves collecting and analyzing information, drawing compelling conclusions, and providing recommendations. It helps not only drive personal success but also better enables organizations to achieve their strategic objectives. Critical thinking is often the central ingredient necessary for providing insights that help management better manage risk and create a sustainable control environment.

This course demonstrates how critical thinking can be weaved throughout key elements of the audit process such as risk assessments and interviewing. Critical thinking is disciplined thinking that is clear, rational, open-minded, and informed by evidence, which makes it ideally suited for application in an audit setting. The critical thinking concepts and practices presented in this course are designed to enhance audit effectiveness and deliver measurable value to audit customers that win internal audit a seat at the table for key business decisions.

This course is designed for:

- Chief audit executives (CAEs) who would like to incorporate critical thinking into the internal audit strategy and methodology of the department in addition to the recruiting, training, and evaluation of audit staff.
- Audit managers interested in learning how to integrate critical thinking throughout the stages of the audit cycle — from risk assessments to reporting.
- Lead auditors who want to employ critical thinking skills in conversations with management and in the development of audit observations.
- Senior and staff auditors seeking an opportunity to enhance their audit interviewing techniques and the quality of their workpapers.



Course Objectives

- Identify the purpose, importance, and key terms of critical thinking.
- Identify the relevant International Professional Practices Framework (IPPF) *Standards*, as well as Implementation Guidance and Practice Guides.
- Understand critical thinking as outlined in the IIA Global Internal Audit Competency Framework.
- Identify critical thinking fallacies and biases.
- Understand how critical thinking is used during risk assessments.
- Apply critical thinking while interviewing.



Course Topics

Critical Thinking Overview

- Critical thinking defined.
- Critical thinking assessment.
- Purpose and importance of critical thinking.
- Relevant IPPF *Standards* and the related Implementation Guidance
- Critical thinking as a personal skill identified in *The IIA's Global Internal Audit Competency Framework*.
- Critical thinking in the audit process.
- Advantages of critical thinking.

Biases and Fallacies

- Impediments to critical thinking.
- Psychological and cognitive biases.
- Logical fallacies.
- The IIA VALU™ Model for critical thinking.

Risk Assessments and Critical Thinking

- Risk assessment.
- Risk assessment in consideration of organizational change.
- Risk assessment model.

Critical Thinking While Interviewing

- Audit interviews and walkthroughs.
- Standards and guidance.
- Elements of communication.
- Neuro-linguistic programming (NLP).

Course Information

Course Duration: 1 Day

CPE Hours Available: 8

Knowledge Level: Intermediate

Field(s) of Study: Personal Development

Prerequisite(s): Participants should have 2–5 years' experience in internal audit.

Advance Preparation: None

Delivery Format(s): On-site Training (Group-Live)